

**REMARKS**

Claim(s) 12, 13, 17, 26, 27, 31 have been canceled. Claim(s) 34-35 have been added. Claims 3, 5-8, 11, 14, 16, 19, 22, 28, 30 have been amended to remove improper multiple dependency. Claim 33 is amended to recite a positive method step. No new matter has been added by the present amendments.

The specification is amended at page 11 to recite that less cross-linking of collagen provides a more soluble substance. This amendment corrects a translation error. This corrective amendment is readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art and does not add any new matter to the application, as the specification already makes clear, e.g. by text immediately before the amended word indicating that a soluble collagen is desired. The specification further states immediately afterward that the collagen used is preferably a “tri-mer or less, more preferably a di-mer or less”.

**Conclusion**

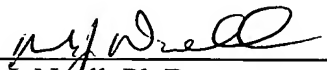
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 36,623 ) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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